



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

at Shepherd of the Hills Church, 19700 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch, CA 91326

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

President Mel Mitchell called the Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Board Members introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Maha Batta (Treasurer), Bright Aregs, Mandhata Chauhan, Sue Hammarlund, Pat Pope, Dick Rippey and Vas Singh. Board Members absent: Becky Leveque (excused). One Board Seat is vacant. Also attending: 83 Stakeholders and guests.

Nine of the 10 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. The PRNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven, so the Board could take such votes.

2. **Update**, Dick Rippey - PRNC Election results, held on September 8, 2012.

Mr. Rippey reported on the Election and thanked the community for participating. It went "much better than 2 ½ years ago . . . about 2 ½ times the number of voters." Six Board Members were elected: Ethan Turer (Youth), Paula Cracium (Open at Large), and four At Large: Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Sean O'Rourke and Pat Pope. See www.PRNC.org [or <http://empowerla.org/prnc/porter-ranch-nc-elections>] or e-mail DARip@earthlink.net.

3. **Minutes Approval**

MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Ms. Cracium): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its August 14, 2012 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

4. **Treasurer**, Maha Batta

Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Batta reported that the PRNC 2011-2012 quarterly Reconciliations were filed with DONE. Mr. Mitchell reported that the PRNC gave back "a little over \$6,000 to the City" [\$6,187] and encouraged community funding project ideas. Ms. Batta reported that the 2012-2013 Budget is \$37,000. July and August P- (Purchase) Card allocations were \$4,530.

5. **MOTION** [see below]

Ms. Batta reviewed recent allocations.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Batta, seconded by Ms. Cracium): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the PRNC Charge Card Expenditure Quarterly Reconciliation Forms for the four quarters of Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of all nine Board Members present.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #9.

6. MOTION [see below]. *[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8.]*

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pope): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council allocates the amount of \$350 for the Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce Family Festival to be held on Saturday, September 15, 2012, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm at the southwest Corner of Porter Ranch Dr. and Rinaldi St. in Porter Ranch.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote.

7. MOTION [see below]

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the agreement with Moore Business Results at \$6,000 for website and public relations services for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

DISCUSSION: Incoming Board Member Sean O'Rourke encouraged using social media such as Facebook for outreach and noted that information is also available through <https://twitter.com/ReadyLA> and <https://twitter.com/LAFD>. Mr. Mitchell noted that the PRNC Planning Retreat in October or November will discuss that and other items.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of all nine Board Members present.

8. Update, Wes Rogers - status of the SOCAL Gas project.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #10.] Stakeholder Wes Rogers reported regarding the Gas Company's Aliso Canyon Turbine Replacement Project. He described what he believed to be extensive "negligence" and lack of safety precautions and attention that led to the Sesnon Fire, or follow-up. He explained that the L.A. Fire Dept. "does not have jurisdiction" over the facility; "it's in an unincorporated area." According to Mr. Rogers a current EIR [Environmental Impact Report] "fails to consider" human safety. He said that the CPUC is trying to get the Gas Company to negotiate but that the Gas Company is refusing. Sesnon Fire litigation is ongoing. He encouraged contacting L.A. City Council District 12 for assistance and would like the PRNC to support public disclosure by the Gas Company. Ms. Cracium reminded that "there's two sides to every story."

9. Committee Reports

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.] Mr. Mitchell described pedestrian and vehicle safety concerns at the new Porter Ranch Community School which were addressed at a September 1st Meeting convened by L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-756-8501; Councilmember.Englander@LACity.org; <http://CD12.LACity.org>). Principal Mary Melvin said they “anticipated 520 students”; they have 720. “It was zoned to not have any on-street parking at all” and the City denied a Permit application for street parking. The School Safety Committee received a petition regarding the concerns signed by 400 Stakeholders. She presented a report to Mr. Mitchell. Ms. Cracium pointed out that Renaissance at Porter Ranch Homeowners Association Stakeholders “are looking for the same solutions” as parents and others.

Erik Richardson, Field Deputy for Councilman Mitch Englander (818-756-8501; Erik.Richardson@LACity.org), reported that Holleigh Bernson Park equipment will be purchased through Proposition 8 funding which was applied for on August 17th. Also, a toxic recycling center will open at the end of October.

10. Community speakers

Mr. Pope introduced L.A. City Fire Dept. Battalion Chief Trevor Richmond, who reminded of the need to clear brush. A high “Burn Index” level can prompt a “pre-deployment” of extra firefighting resources at Fire Station 28, for which rescue staffing is again at full strength. He noted that Schools “are perfect evacuation centers.” A Porter Ranch Community School representative said the School is prepared “with lots of equipment.” Chief Richmond indicated that “a remote access weather station” that Councilman Englander helped fund will be installed in the hills above Porter Ranch that will give real-time information on temperature, humidity, and wind to help dispatchers move appropriate resources into hillside fire areas based on current conditions. He reminded to have an evacuation plan and that, if you are ordered to evacuate, there will be no time to plan what to take. If there is a brush fire “plan to leave early.” He explained that if you do not evacuate, it forces the Fire Dept. to focus on protecting you instead of your property. A “reverse 9-1-1 system” is still being worked on. They are developing a computer program that anyone can see to get “real-time statistics.”

Richard Elder, Chief, Battalion 15-C, L.A. City Fire Dept. (818.756.8615; Richard.Elder@LACity.org), said “they’re getting out the door in about 60 seconds on every run.” He noted that Brown’s Canyon is covered by L.A. City, L.A. County and Ventura County Fire Departments and that “all Fire Dept. vehicles are being outfitted with GPS devices.” Mr. Pope encouraged visiting Fire Stations 8 and 28. The www.PRNC.org website will have links to the Fire Dept.; DVDs are available.

[The following comments were made after Item #7.] Ms. Hammarlund announced the October 6th 11:00 – 3:00 Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair at Fire Station 87 on Balboa between Devonshire and Lassen.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #8

Mr. Mitchell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.